

17th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

RE: Coronavirus update

You will be aware that the Prime Minister and the Chief Medical Officer has updated the nation on measures relating to the containment of the Coronavirus outbreak. The current instruction is that schools should not close without direction from government and therefore we will do all we can to remain open. You will appreciate that this will prove to be an enormous challenge for schools and I thank you for your patience and understanding in the current circumstances.

Below is an update of on key points to consider:

1) Possible partial school closure in the short-term

I anticipate that more and more staff will be required to self-isolate over the coming days. We will do our best to keep school open for everyone but we are already stretched and I may therefore need to consider a partial opening of the school at some point in order to be sure we can keep students safe. This is likely to involve one or two year groups being asked to remain at home. Should this be necessary, we will prioritise opening for examination year groups and year 7. Of course, this will mean significant disruption to normal lessons, with the priority being to ensure adequate supervision of students for safety reasons.

Every effort will be made to communicate decisions in good time. If at all possible, we will try to provide such information the day before any school closure decisions are applied; however, it is likely that decisions will be made on the day itself and that this will leave parents with very little notice. **Please keep an eye on the school website and your mobile devices for texts, emails and tweets.** If students are already on buses and cannot return home easily and safely, we will look after them in school until they can be collected or parents give permission for them to leave site.

Please note: in the event of any rumours that may be flying around, remember that no decision about school closure would ever be communicated via any method other than the official school channels and will always include a message on the school website. We will not send any messages when school remains open for everyone as normal.

2) Cancellation or postponement of all sporting extra-curricular activities and other after-school activities.

N.b. This includes the Spring Concert which was due to take place on Tuesday 31st March. Most trips planned for the next few weeks have already been cancelled and any others for the summer term are under review.

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

Lymm High School, Oughtrington Lane, Lymm, WA13 0RB
01925 755458 info@lymmhigh.org.uk www.lymmhigh.org.uk



3) Planning for school closure

Currently, the government intends to attempt to keep schools open for as long as possible. This position may change in the next few days. In the event of school closure, we will do our best to provide work for all students and will write with more details at the time, as explained in my message of Friday 13th March.

4) Student illness or self-isolation

The current guidance is that students should not come into school if they are displaying the following symptoms:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above) and/or
- A new, *continuous* cough

If your child displays any symptoms as described above, please keep them at home for 14 days. On the first day of absence please contact the school on 01925 755458.

Students will also need to remain away from school if anyone in the household has these systems.

The latest government guidance (including the implications for household members if one person is showing symptoms or if you are in close contact with vulnerable people) can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

If you choose to keep your child at home because you are concerned about vulnerable relatives, then we will authorise such absences; please just let the school know in the usual way. Please bear in mind that we are not experts in school and, where the government advice is not clear for your particular situation, we know parents will try to do the right thing and we will not question your own judgement in these cases.

Please note that, for the time being, we are not setting specific work for students who are self-isolating – the situation is changing too rapidly for us to be able to keep on top of this. Therefore, the advice is that students spend time: reading for pleasure; self-quizzing from knowledge organisers; and using MyMaths to practise topics they are less confident with. Obviously, students with examinations can revise using other materials. If the current situation continues for much longer, we will re-consider this policy.

5) Other measures

In addition to all the measures above, we have increased our cleaning capacity and cleaners are working around the clock to ensure that the site is clean and that surfaces are regularly sanitised including, for example, frequently wiping door handles and other 'hot spots'. We are encouraging students to regularly wash their hands and avoid unnecessary contact. Should anything change, we will keep you posted.

Many thanks for your support and understanding during these exceptional circumstances.

Kind regards



Gwyn Williams